

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 041037  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:GACHESTER:DHT  
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE  
EUR/CE:DANDERSON  
EUR/SOV:DHERSPRING  
L/EUR:JWILLIS  
EUR/P:FSEIDNER  
S/S-MR. BRIDGES

-----240123 019795 /62

O 240005Z FEB 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041037

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, US, WB, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY RUDOLF HESS

REF: USBERLIN 539; BONN 3233; USBERLIN 551

1. DEPT BELIEVES IT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT PRESS WILL NOT HEAR OF HESS' SUICIDE ATTEMPT. NO COMMENT LINE WILL ONLY CAUSE SPECULATION TO BUILD WHETHER HE IS STILL ALIVE. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTY WITH SOVIETS WHICH PUBLICITY COULD CAUSE, IN PARTICULAR IN GAINING THEIR AGREEMENT TO HESS' REMOVAL TO BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 041037

2. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE NO COMMENT PRESS LINE SHOULD BE ADHERED TO ONLY UNTIL QUESTION OF MEDICAL OBSERVATION IS SETTLED. THEREAFTER WE BELIEVE ALLIES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE BRIEF FACTUAL STATEMENT ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS.

3. US REP SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK ALLIED AGREEMENT NOW ON

CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE. IN OUR VIEW, THIS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO CONFIRMATION THAT HESS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE AND IS UNDER MEDICAL OBSERVATION.

4. DEPARTMENT APPROVES PLAN FOR DEALING WITH UPCOMING VISIT OF HESS' SON DESCRIBED IN PARA. 3 OF USBERLIN 551.  
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, NEWS LEAKS, PRISONERS WELFARE, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE041037  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GACHESTER:DHT  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770063-0489  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770213/aaaaalfc.tel  
**Line Count:** 69  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1460c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 USBERLIN 539, 77 BONN 3233, 77 USBERLIN 551  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3240028  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY RUDOLF HESS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, US, WB, UK, FR, UR, (HESS, RUDOLF)  
**To:** BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1460c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009